

Enclosure 5a
January 31, 2017

Council Designations

Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
January 31, 2017



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

Council Designations

L-6-1.0 Definitions

*“(I) Council Designation – a **notation on a diploma** designating achievement consistent with a standard set for this purpose by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. Designations approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education shall include but not be limited to **documentation of student achievement** of statewide literacy and numeracy standards and documentation of student completion of a defined course of study **consistent with a personal learning goal.**”*

Council Designations serve as a means to:

- (1) personalize the diploma
- (2) externally validate student achievements
- (3) allow for public recognition of specific skills
- (4) incentivize students to meet additional high standards, beyond those needed to earn a high school diploma; and
- (5) encourage flexible and personalized high school learning experiences

Secondary School Regulations

The Secondary School Regulations approved by the Council in October 2016 includes language that permits the use of Council Designations as a part of the RI Diploma System.

L-6-3.4. Council designations

*“Commencing with the graduating class of 2021, LEAs shall include a designation **notation on permanent high school transcripts and on the diplomas** of all students who meet Council-defined criteria. The Council shall **(1) determine designations available statewide, and (2) determine the level of achievement necessary for a Council Designation**. Designations approved by the Council shall include, but not be limited to documentation of student achievement of a statewide literacy and numeracy standard and documentation of student completion of a course of study consistent with a personal learning goal. LEAs shall provide students with multiple opportunities and appropriate supports to meet designation requirements. LEAs are authorized to award additional locally-developed designations.”*

Proposed Council Designations

Designations to be awarded as part of the diploma system beginning with the Class of 2021:

- (1) Commissioner's Seal
- (2) Seal of Biliteracy
- (3) Pathway Endorsements

Notification Regulations

The approved and revised Secondary School Regulations state:

L-6-3.7. Local educational agency notification to students, families, and community members of the requirements for graduation.

“(a) LEAs shall provide **full and effective notice of the state and local graduation requirements** to administrators, teachers, students, families, and members of the community. Full and effective notice of the requirements for graduation and Council designations must be provided to students and their families **no later than October 1** in the year in which said students enter the ninth grade (or at the time of enrollment into the LEA), after which the local and state diploma system requirements shall not be altered for the affected class.”

Proposed Council Designation Implementation Timeline

January 31	Council votes to approve Council Designations and performance standards
February - June	RIDE and field representatives further define criteria and necessary evidence for each designation; Create guidance documents and tools for field implementation
March 2017	Preliminary Commissioner's Seal menu of assessments available
June 20, 2017	RIDE will provide an update to the Council on defined performance standard for each Council Designation
July - September	Communicate criteria to the field and provide technical assistance for adoption
On or before October 1, 2017	Council Designation criteria information provided to the class of 2021 and their families

Council Designation: Commissioner's Seal - Definition

Purpose:

To certify that a student is proficient in high school standards-aligned English Language Arts and mathematics content, as confirmed by external evidence.

Level of Achievement:

Proficiency on the state adopted high school learning standards in English Language Arts and mathematics.

Council Designation: Commissioner's Seal – Criteria

Acceptable Evidence:

A student must meet the established performance standard on both English Language Arts and mathematics RIDE-approved assessments.

The RIDE-approved performance standard on each assessment will reflect student proficiency at a level comparable to or higher than the associated state-adopted high school learning standards.

Possible assessments:

PARCC, SAT, PSAT, ACT, select Advanced Placement exams, International Baccalaureate, select CTE credentialing exams

Council Designation: Seal of Biliteracy - Definition

Purpose:

To certify that a student has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages. The Seal of Biliteracy highlights individuals with multilingual competence.

Level of Achievement:

Proficiency in both state-adopted high school English Language Arts standards and nationally-recognized world language standards (e.g. ACTFL).

Council Designation: Seal of Biliteracy – Criteria

Acceptable Evidence:

Demonstration of the established performance standard on RIDE-approved assessments in English Language Arts and world languages.

The RIDE-approved performance standard on each assessment will reflect student proficiency at a level comparable to or higher than the associated state-adopted or nationally-recognized high school learning standards.

Possible Assessments:

- ELA: PARCC, SAT, PSAT, ACT, ACCESS
- World Languages: AAPPL, STAMP, OPI, AP, SAT II, IB, SLPI

Council Designation: Pathway Endorsement - Definition

Purpose:

To certify that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.

Level of Achievement:

Meeting identified performance standards in (1) academic study, (2) application of learning, and (3) exploration of related careers to demonstrate a level of readiness sufficient for employment or further education in a career path.

The RIDE-approved performance standard will reflect a level comparable to or higher than the associated state-adopted or nationally-recognized high school learning standards.

Council Designation: Pathway Endorsement – Criteria

Acceptable Evidence:

Performance at a RIDE-established benchmark within each identified endorsement area in

- (1) academic study within a chosen area of interest,
- (2) demonstration of deep learning through application, and
- (3) evidence of meaningful exploration of related careers.

Endorsement areas may include:

Arts, Business and Industry, Global Studies, Humanities, Public Service, STEM, & World Language

Proposal for Council Approval

Starting with the Class of 2021, RI high school graduates shall be eligible to earn the following Council Designations by **successfully demonstrating the identified level of achievement**:

1. Commissioner's Seal

- Certifies that a student is proficient in high school standards-aligned English Language Arts and Mathematics content, as confirmed by external evidence.
- Proficiency on the state adopted high school learning standards in English Language Arts and mathematics.

2. Seal of Biliteracy

- Certifies that a student has attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages.
- Proficiency in both state-adopted high school English Language Arts standards and nationally-recognized world language standards.

3. Pathway Endorsements

- Certifies that a student has accomplished deep learning in a chosen area of interest and is prepared for employment or further education in a career path.
- Meeting identified performance standards in (1) academic study, (2) application of learning, and (3) exploration of related careers, which reflects a level comparable to or higher than state-adopted or nationally-recognized high school learning standards.

Appendix

- Commissioner's Seal – Next Steps Timeline
- Seal of Biliteracy –Next Steps Timeline
- Pathway Endorsement – Next Steps Timeline

Council Designation:

Commissioner's Seal – Next Steps

After the Council approves the purpose and level of achievement:

1. RIDE will establish criteria for identifying eligibility of an assessment, and a process for nominating and approving assessments (Jan-Feb.)
2. RIDE will convene field representatives and technical experts to evaluate and approve a select number of assessments and their performance standards (Feb.)
3. RIDE will communicate the first round assessments (likely to include PARCC) to LEAs (March)
4. RIDE and field representatives will approve additional assessments and corresponding performance standards for Class of 2021 according to established process and criteria (May – Jun.)
5. RIDE will communicate and provide technical assistance to LEAs for adoption of the Commissioner's Seal (Jul.-Sept.)
6. LEAs will notify students and families of Class of 2021 criteria to earn Commissioner's Seal (Sept.-Oct.)

Council Designation:

Seal of Biliteracy– Next Steps

After the Council approves the purpose and level of achievement:

1. RIDE will establish criteria for identifying eligibility of an assessment, and a process for nominating and approving assessments (Feb.)
2. RIDE will convene field representatives and technical experts, including world language and EL teachers, to evaluate and approve a select number of assessments in other languages, as well as the appropriate performance standards. (Mar. – Jun.)
3. RIDE, in consultation with field representatives, will choose ELA assessments that have been approved for the Commissioner's Seal to be applicable for the Seal of Biliteracy (May-Jun.)
4. RIDE will communicate and provide technical assistance to LEAs for adoption of the Seal of Biliteracy (Jul.-Sept.)
5. LEAs will notify students and families of Class of 2021 criteria to earn Seal of Bi-Literacy (Sept.-Oct.)

Council Designation:

Pathway Endorsement – Next Steps

After the Council approves the purpose and level of achievement:

1. RIDE will establish criteria for identifying endorsement areas, and a process for nominating and approving endorsement areas (Feb.)
2. RIDE, in consultation with field and business representatives, will establish the endorsement areas that will be available to the Class of 2021 (Feb.)
3. RIDE, in consultation with field and business representatives, will establish benchmarks for each of the endorsement criteria: academic study, application and exploration of careers. (Feb.)
4. RIDE will convene groups of educators and employers in related careers for each endorsement area to establish specific guidance on acceptable ways to fulfill the criteria (Mar. – Jun.)
5. RIDE will communicate and provide technical assistance to LEAs for adoption of the Pathway Endorsements (Jul.-Sept.)
6. LEAs will notify students and families of Class of 2021 endorsement areas and criteria to earn Pathway Endorsements (Sept.-Oct.)